



Gynaecological surgeon

Baby-soft skin restored to the gynaecological surgeons at France's leading private maternity unit.

Smooth surgery with powder-free gloves

With the sharp increase in day surgery, particularly in the area of gynaecology and obstetrics, Polyclinique de l'Atlantique is seeing a growing number of patients pass through its 14 operating theatres. Until recently, this influx was making harsh demands on surgeons' hands. The Ansell Gammex® PF HydraSoft® surgical glove enables the practitioners who use them to rediscover the pleasures of having baby-soft skin again.

A ce jour, la Polyclinique de l'Atlantique est, par le nombre de naissances, la première maternité privée française : en 2006, pas moins de 5200 accouchements y ont été pratiqués. Outre ses 14 salles d'intervention, ce site dispose d'une capacité de 243 lits d'hospitalisation, 20 places d'ambulatorio et 6 lits de néonatalogie. Quelque 650 personnes et 140 médecins y travaillent, dont le Dr. Hugo Martigny, au département de chirurgie gynécologique et obstétrique. Ce chirurgien expérimenté est devenu un fervent adepte du gant non poudré et du double gantage.

The challenge: To find a quality alternative to powdered surgical gloves

"When we perform a laparotomy, we put on two pairs of powder-free gloves to avoid peritoneal adhesions. This is something that one of my professors was recommending as far back as ten years or so ago," recalls Dr. Martigny. Designed to prevent contamination accidents, double-gloving with powder-free gloves nevertheless poses several problems: *"Putting on two pairs of gloves with no powder is akin to mission impossible"*. Yet when we have an urgent caesarean to perform, for example, every minute is vital. In the same way, a laparotomy requires a change of glove when closing and also sometimes during a lengthy procedure – which does nothing to simplify things. *"I also often used to get cracked skin on my knuckles, as well as tingling at the tips of my fingers, which is a common problem with double-gloving"*.

Dr. Hugo Martigny, gynaecological surgeon at the Polyclinique de l'Atlantique : *"When talking with my fellow surgeons, all of them complain about discomfort to their hands. For me, these problems have completely disappeared since I have been using nothing but Ansell Gammex® PF HydraSoft® gloves."*

Client profile

An initially independent healthcare group that joined the VEDICI group in August 2007, Polyclinique de l'Atlantique is located in the pretty French port town of Nantes in impressive grounds extending over 5 hectares. Currently occupying an area of some 32 000 m², the complex is the result of the merger of 4 clinics in Nantes: Clinique Vignard, specialising in orthopaedic surgery and traumatology, Clinique Saint-Jean, that focuses on gynaecology and obstetrics, Clinique Texier Levesque, known for its ear, nose and throat surgery, and Clinique Notre-Dame de Grâce, a centre for surgery and obstetrics. The centre's medicine, surgery and maternity activities have now been expanded further by medical and paramedical services, ranging from medical imaging to a cosmetic surgery centre, as well as a medical biology laboratory and physiotherapy rehabilitation facilities.

Benefits for the client

- Attraction for the surgeon.
- Enhanced ease of donning.
- Optimum protection.

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Ansell products used

- Gammex® PF Hydrasoft, latex powder-free surgical glove.
- DermaPrene® Ultra, neoprene powder-free surgical glove (for preventing allergic reactions to latex).
- Gammex® PF Micro-Thin®, powder-free thin latex surgical glove.
- Microthin® Nutex®, latex powder-free surgical glove, used in ophthalmology for its exceptional fineness.

The solution: Ansell's HydraSoft® technology

In addition to using nothing but Ansell for all its medical glove requirements since 1996, Polyclinique de l'Atlantique has abandoned powdered gloves in favour of powder-free solutions featuring HydraSoft® technology. As soon as he began testing Ansell's Gammex® PF Hydrasoft gloves, Dr. Martigny could see – and feel – the difference: “Double-gloving is now significantly simpler and much faster, especially when I am changing my outer glove at the end of a procedure before closing; With the high level of strength of the first pair of HydraSoft gloves, which I have never seen become porous, I find that the risk of contamination is lowered, even if the outer glove has become permeable through rubbing; finally, my dry skin problems have totally disappeared.” The tingling has also resolved itself:

“In addition to the anatomical shape of the Gammex® PF HydraSoft®, I have adopted the good habit of wearing a larger size inner glover and a smaller size outer; As a result, my fingertips have stopped tingling.”

To offset the corrosive effect of scrubbing my hands surgically with antiseptic soap and to comply with the requirements of the 2005-2008 nosocomial infection prevention programme and the recommendations of the French Society for Hospital Hygiene (SFHH), the surgeons at the polyclinic now disinfect their hands with hydro-alcoholic solutions (DCMF): “The synergy with HydraSoft® is total: My skin stays soft and hydrated all year round.”

To achieve maximum safety, the polyclinic ensures that the serology of the patients to be operated on is systematically kept up to date. This is reassuring for practitioners, especially in the emergency rooms.

The benefits: comfort, safety and feel all combined without compromise

Ansell Gammex® PF HydraSoft® gloves help optimise working conditions for the surgeons at Polyclinique de l'Atlantique in a number of ways:

- In soft tissue surgery, optimum protection against infectious diseases should the outer glove be perforated.
- Significant time-savings, a particularly vital factor in obstetrics, when changing gloves in mid-procedure.
- High level of anatomical comfort combined with skin hydration during procedures, with no adverse effect on finger sensitivity.

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Ansell Limited is a global leader in barrier protective products. With operations in the Americas, Europe and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people worldwide and holds leading positions in the natural latex and synthetic polymer glove and condom markets. Ansell operates in three main business segments: Occupational Healthcare, supplying hand protection to the industrial market; Professional Healthcare, supplying surgical and examination gloves to healthcare professionals; and Consumer Healthcare, supplying condoms and consumer hand protection. Information on Ansell and its products can be found at www.ansell.eu

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